

Daily Current Affairs 06/09/2021

1. 6th Eastern Economic Forum 2021



Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently addressed the plenary session of the **6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) 2021 in Vladivostok, Russia.**
- The theme of the forum was **“The Opportunities for the Far East in a World under Transformation”.**
- It may be recalled

that the Prime Minister was the Chief Guest for the 5th EEF in 2019, the first by an Indian Prime Minister.

Key Points

Highlights of Prime Minister's Address:

- Applauding President Putin's vision for the development of the Russian Far East, Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment as part of its 'Act East Policy' of being a reliable partner of Russia in this regard.
- He underlined the natural complementarities of India and Russia in the development of the Russian Far East.
- He stressed on the importance of greater economic and commercial engagement between the two sides in line with the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'.

About Eastern Economic Forum (EEF):

- EEF was established by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015.
- The Forum business programme includes a number of business dialogues with leading partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and with ASEAN.

India-Russia Relations:

- Russia is the largest investment destination for the Indian oil and gas companies and Indian public sector companies have made investments in Russia of about \$16 billion, including in the Far East and East Siberia, in oil and gas assets such as Sakhalin-1, Vankor and Taas-Yuryakh.
- Russia is also the largest investor in India's oil and gas sector.
- India is the second largest market for the Russian defence industry.

Source: PIB

2. Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) 2021



Why in News

- The 28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) was conducted from 02 to 04 Sep 2021.
- Owing to the ongoing pandemic-related constraints, this

year's SIMBEX was planned without any physical interactions as an 'at-sea only' exercise hosted by the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)** in the **southern fringes of the South China Sea**.

Key Points

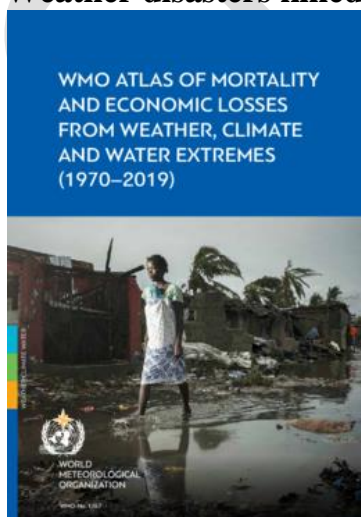
- The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a ship borne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

About Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX):

- SIMBEX is an annual bilateral naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- The exercise has been held annually since 1994.
- Both navies have a representation in each other's Maritime Information Fusion Centres and have also recently signed an agreement on mutual submarine rescue support and coordination.

Source: PIB

3. Weather disasters killed 2 million in last 50 years, UN Agency



Why in News

- According to the **WMO 'Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970 – 2019)'** report, weather disasters killed 2 million in last 50 years.
- **WMO (World Meteorological Organization)** is a specialized **agency of the United Nations** responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.

Key Points

Findings of the Report:

- The number of disasters has increased by a factor of five over the 50 year period, driven by climate change, more extreme weather and improved reporting.

- Due to improved early warnings and disaster management, the number of deaths decreased almost three-fold from 1970 to 2019.
- From 1970 to 2019, weather, climate and water hazards accounted for 50% of all disasters, 45% of all reported deaths and 74% of all reported economic losses.
- More than 91% of these deaths occurred in developing countries.
- During the 50 year period, US\$ 202 million dollars in damage occurred on average every day. Economic losses have increased sevenfold from the 1970s to the 2010s.
- Storms were the most prevalent cause of damage, resulting in the largest economic losses around the globe.

Failure of Sendai Framework:

- The failure to reduce disaster losses as set out in the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted by UN Member States in 2015** is putting at risk the ability of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to achieve other important **SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)**.

India's Recent Initiatives:

- National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

Source: public.wmo.int

4. Manipur CM launches e-ILP platform to regulate entry, exit and tracking of visitors



Why in News

- **Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh** launched the **e-ILP platform** for effective regulation of the **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** system in the state.
- The ILP system came into effect in Manipur on January 1, 2020.
- Manipur issues 4 different categories of permissions: temporary, regular, special, and labour permits.

Key Points

About Inner Line Permit (ILP):

- **ILP** is a document that Indian citizens from other states are required to possess in order to enter states like Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur.
- **e-ILP platform** will play a vital role in **regulating the entry, exit and tracking of visitors**.

- e-ILP platform has a comprehensive dashboard system that actively shows varied information such as number of people entering the state on a particular day and time and a graphical break-up-based presentation of people visiting through different entry gates.
- An Inner Line Permit Monitoring Cell with DIG (Intelligence) as its chairman had been set up to ensure proper reading of entry and exit and to track over stay.

Source: Indian Express

5. India and US sign Project Agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle



Why in News

- **Ministry of Defence, Government of India and United States (US) Department of Defence** signed a **Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV)** under the Joint

Working Group Air Systems in the **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)** on July 30, 2021.

Key Points

- The **Project Agreement (PA)** outlines the collaboration between Air Force Research Laboratory, Indian Air Force, and Defence Research and Development Organisation towards design, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation of systems to co-develop an ALUAV Prototype.

Background:

- The PA for ALUAV falls under the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) Memorandum of Agreement between Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence, which was first signed in January 2006 and renewed in January 2015.

Significance:

- The agreement is a significant step towards deepening defence technology collaboration between the two nations through co-development of defence equipment.

Aim of the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI):

- The main aim of DTTI is to bring sustained leadership focus to promote collaborative technology exchange and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.
- Under DTTI, Joint Working Groups on land, naval, air, and aircraft carrier technologies have been established to focus on mutually agreed projects in respective domains.

Source: The Hindu

6. Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 Winners



Why in News

- Recently, the 63rd Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 was announced.

Key Points

List of Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 Awardees:

- Dr. Firdausi Qadri, Bangladesh (Affordable Vaccine Champion)
- Roberto Ballon, Philippines (Fisherman, Community Environmentalist)
- Steven Muncy, Southeast Asia (Humanitarian, Peace Builder)
- Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Pakistan (Poverty Alleviation Visionary)
- Watchdoc, Indonesia (Media Truth Crusaders)

About Ramon Magsaysay Award:

- It was established in April 1957 and is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.
- The award is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Republic of the Philippines after World War II.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation gives the prize to Asian individuals achieving excellence in their respective fields.
- The Award is presented in a formal ceremony in Manila, Philippines on August 31st each year.

Source: The Hindu

7. IIT Ropar's startup company introduces World's first 'Plant based' smart air-purifier "Ubreathe Life"



Why in News

- Scientists of **Indian Institutes of Technology, Ropar and Kanpur and Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University** have developed a living-plant based air purifier "Ubreathe Life".
- It amplifies the air purification process in the indoor spaces. These indoor spaces can either be hospitals, schools, offices and Homes.

Key Points

- IIT Ropar's startup company, **Urban Air Laboratory**, that has developed the product claims it to be the world's first, state-of-the art 'Smart Bio-Filter'

that can make breathing fresh.

- It has been incubated at IIT Ropar, which is a designated iHub - AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

About Air purifier “Ubreathe Life”:

- The technology works through the air-purifying natural leafy plant.
- The room-air interacts with leaves and goes to the soil-root zone where maximum pollutants are purified.
- The novel technology used in this product is ‘Urban Munnar Effect’ along with patent pending “Breathing Roots” to exponentially amplify the phytoremediation process of the plants.
- Phytoremediation is a process by which plants effectively remove pollutants from the air.

Note: According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report the indoor air spaces are five times more polluted than outdoor air space.

Source: PIB